

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Legislative Session

June 16, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

President Moore called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkesburg, PA.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Council members present were: Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, President Moore. Also present were Mayor John Thompson, Marla P. Marcinko Borough Manager and Isobel Storch, Esquire from the Law Offices of Patricia McGrail, Borough Solicitor. Absent were: Ms. Ervin and Ms. McCarthy-Johnson. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mark Bannister – 1659 Doyle St. – Commented that he received a parking ticket, as well as at least two other residents on his street, erroneously. The tickets were issued on a Tuesday when the parking is restricted on the first and third Friday of the month. He further stated his frustration with being required to appear before the magistrate when the ticket was issued in error. Ms. Trice responded that she had discussed this matter with Chief Coleman and was advised that the process is to complete an appeal form in the Finance Office and then a hearing is scheduled before the district justice. Mr. Bannister commented that the process is unacceptable, particularly in light of the fact that the ticket was issued in error. There were a total of five tickets issued erroneously. Mr. Cohn requested that the process be reviewed to avoid requiring Mr. Bannister to appear before the magistrate. Ms. Marcinko advised that she would forward the Borough's response to Ms. Riser.

Art Hicks- 571 Princeton Blvd. – Requested that a stop intersection be established at Princeton Blvd and Florida St. He also requested that rumble strips be installed at the intersection of Franklin Ave and Princeton Blvd. While Franklin and Princeton is a stop intersection, the sign is hidden by overgrowth. He further requested a copy of the parking ordinances. Mr. Hicks commented that there are parking issues at Marlboro and Ardmore Blvd and further reported a large pothole at Traymore St. and Shelbourne St.

James Jones -579 Princeton Blvd. – Expressed concern regarding the condition of vacant property at 600, 601 and 603 Princeton Blvd. There are problems with rodents despite the fact that he has cut the grass to minimize the problem. Ms. Marcinko suggested he contact the Code Enforcement Department to check on the status of issuing notices to the property owners.

Jean Kirkland – 8012 Susquehanna St. – Commented on a tree hanging over the alley on Culp Way which could potentially cause damage to vehicles. Ms. Kirkland thanked

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 16, 2010**

Council on behalf of Rev. Parker for assistance from the Borough to Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

Gwen Butler – 500 Holmes St. – Commented on the playground she “adopted” and received a gold key from a former Mayor of Wilkinsburg. The playground is being left open all day and night. The grass has not been cut and neighbors complain to her. The locks and chains have been cut off of the playground. Ms. Evans suggested referring the matter to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee. Solicitor Storch advised that if a policy is to be developed regarding hours of operation, it needs to specify that the Borough is the responsible party for Borough parks and facilities, not a private citizen.

Linda Kirkland-Law-908 Wood St. – Provided a brief update from the Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee of the Weed and Seed Initiative. One of the goals of the Subcommittee is to address blighted properties and abandoned homes. She further reported on the clean-ups being conducted throughout the Borough and other assistance to residents of Wilkinsburg sponsored by Neighborhood Restoration. The second goal of Neighborhood Restoration is to educate residents, particularly renters, on home ownership through Pittsburgh Housing and Development Association.

Jacob Spence – Star Scout with Troop 373 – Introduced himself and advised that he was attending the Council meeting as part of a Scout project.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

Ordinance No. 2843

Establishing Handicap Parking Space at 1004 Coal St.

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Second: Ms. Trice

Yes: Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre,
President Moore

Motion carried

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

Ordinance No. 2840

Amending Ordinance No. 2830 – Tax Compromise

Moved: Ms. Evans

Second: Mr. Cohn

Yes: Mr. Lewis, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Macklin,
President Moore

Motion carried

Ordinance No. 2841

Amending Chapter 248 of the Wilkinsburg Code – Handicap Parking.

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 16, 2010**

Moved: Ms. Macklin

Second: Ms. Trice

Yes: Ms. Macklin, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

No: Mr. Lewis

Motion carried 6:1

Ordinance No. 2842

Amending Ordinance No. 2787 – Tenant Registration.

Moved: Mr. Cohn

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Mr. Lewis, Mr. Cohn, Ms. Trice, Ms. Evans, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Macklin, President Moore

Motion carried

RESOLUTIONS

10-056 Approving April Checks Issued.

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby approves the April Checks issued in the amounts as follows:

Regular Distributions 04/01/10 – 04/30/10	\$ 965,755.41
Payroll Disbursements	\$ 348,293.52
Voided Checks	\$ (-0-)
 Total	 \$1,314,048.93

Moved: Mr. Cohn

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, President Moore

No: Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice

Motion carried: 4:3

10-075

Approving Council Meeting Minutes of 05/05/10 and 05/19/10

Moved: Mr. Lewis

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Ms. Trice, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Mr. Cohn (May 5, 2010) President Moore

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 16, 2010**

Abstain: Mr. Cohn (May 19, 2010)

Motion carried

10-076 Approving May Checks Issued.

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby approves the May Checks Issued in the amounts as follows:

Regular Distributions 05/01/10-05/31/10	\$ 830,026.16
Payroll Disbursements	\$ 355,659.42
Voided Checks	<u>\$ (49,869.32)</u>
Total	\$1,135,816.26

Moved: Mr. Cohn

Second: Mr. Lefebvre

Yes: Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, President Moore

No: Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Ms. Trice

Ms. Macklin commented that she is voting against the approval of the May checks issued as she does not approve of the process followed for said approval.

Motion carried 4:3

10-077 Authorize awarding of CD 36 Demolition Contract.

The Wilkinsburg Borough Council hereby authorizes the Turtle Creek Valley Council of Governments to award the CD 36 demolition contract to W & J Contractors in the amount of \$96,900.00.

Moved: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Evans

Yes: Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, President Moore

Motion carried

Ms. Evans commented about how nice it is to see the first of the NSP demolitions taking place and the sizeable number of demolitions which will be taking place in the future. She commented that the WCDC has funding for marketing and that a press release on this would be positive for the Borough. Mr. Cohn expressed his support of that effort and requested that information on the tax exemption and tax compromise programs also be included in the release to further demonstrate the Borough's efforts at reclaiming vacant property as an alternative to demolition. Ms. Evans suggested that it may be best to keep the two separate so as not to confuse readers. Ms. Macklin suggested including

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 16, 2010**

information on the County's Vacant Property Recovery Program for residents interested in acquiring the newly vacant properties. Ms. Evans suggested applying for funding for property acquisition in the business district. She further commented on the vacant property on Wood St. which was recently demolished and acquiring the property to upgrade/add to the existing parking lot. President Moore commented on positive appearance of the lot at Center St. and Ross Ave and questioned whether grass seed could be planted. Ms. Macklin questioned the requirements under the demolition specification relating to basements. Chief McAfee responded that the structure must be taken down at least 3 feet below grade. Ms. Evans commented that green guidelines were developed for the vacant lots in the Peebles Square project. Mr. Cohn expressed his support of the acquisition of the recently demolished property on Wood Street. Mr. Cohn commented that the redevelopment of the Penn Lincoln Hotel may cause additional parking issues.

A motion was made by Mr. Cohn, second by Ms. Macklin, to submit applications for 711 and 800 Wood St. to the County Vacant Property Recovery Program.

Yes: Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre,
President Moore

Motion carried

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Macklin commented on the great Public Safety Community meeting held before the Council meeting at 5:30 PM. She advised that the meetings are held on the third Wednesdays of every month at 5:30 PM and invited all to attend.

Ms. Macklin raised concerns in the meeting regarding bottle bombs and trash cans being blown up with homemade explosive devices. President Moore cautioned residents to stay away from suspicious bottles. Ms. Macklin commented on a report that cyclists are being attacked in Wilkinsburg. She spoke with Chief Coleman and was assured that no attack took place in Wilkinsburg.

Ms. Macklin drove by Whitney Park and expressed concern that the field gates were closed to children and dogs were off their leashes which is in violation of the Borough's ordinance. President Moore commented on the seriousness of dog bites. Ms. Evans commented on her experience with Whitney Park for the past ten (10) years and that the ball field has always been used as a "dog park". Ms. Evans further commented that she does not support establishing a dog park at this location as the field/park is not maintained by the Borough but by the residents on Whitney Ave. President Moore commented that she understands that the dogs may bring the neighbors together but allowing dogs to run off their leashes is still in violation of the Borough's ordinance. Mr. Cohn referred to the dog activity in Whitney Park as "benign" and that he has never seen an aggressive dog. He further commented on the need to take official action to authorize the field for use as a dog park if that is the consensus of Council. President Moore

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 16, 2010**

commented that a dog park is not currently authorized in the Borough with the current legislation.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Lefebvre informed Council of the recent receipt by the Fire Department of a grant for the purchase of smoke detectors, voice smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors.

A motion was made by Mr. Lefebvre, second by Ms. Macklin, to authorize the advertisement for bids for the purchase of smoke detectors, voice programmable smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Mr. Lewis questioned if the advertisement will include the number of smoke detectors to be purchased in the bid in order to receive the benefit of a price break. President Moore questioned if there are special smoke detectors for those who are blind and those who are hearing impaired. Chief McAfee responded that the number of units to be bid will be included in the advertisement and that the County has a program for smoke detectors for the blind or hearing impaired. Ms. Macklin questioned if the company is on the State Contract list. Chief McAfee responded that there is only one vendor on the State Contract and that vendor was not able to provide all of the equipment.

Yes: Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

Motion carried

Ms. Marcinko requested Council's consideration of a request for a street closure in the 1100 block of Glenn Ave on July 24 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM for the purpose of holding a health and wellness fair. The request has been approved by the Fire Chief and Police Chief.

Mr. Lewis expressed concern regarding the length of the closure.

A motion was made by Mr. Cohn, second by Ms. Trice, to authorize a street closure in the 1100 block of Glenn Ave on July 24 between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM for the purpose of holding a health and wellness fair.

Yes: Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Mr. Cohn, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre, President Moore

Motion carried

Ms. Marcinko requested an executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Council recessed to executive session at approximately 8:15 PM.

**Borough of Wilkinsburg
Council Legislative Meeting
June 16, 2010**

Council came out of executive session and the meeting was reconvened at approximately 9:28 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Mr. Cohn, second by Ms. Trice, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:29 P.M.

Eugenia Moore, Council President